

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 598

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kevin Byard on being named First Team All-Pro by the Associated Press.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a young athlete who developed an excellent work ethic as a collegian and has now attained the most lofty heights of success in the National Football League (NFL); and

WHEREAS, Kevin Byard, a safety for the Tennessee Titans, improved leaps and bounds during his second professional season to distinguish himself as one of the best defensive backs in the NFL; and

WHEREAS, a third-round selection in the 2016 NFL Draft from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Kevin Byard tied for the league lead in interceptions with 8 in 2017 and led the NFL in takeaways with 10, a total that includes 2 fumble recoveries; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2017, Mr. Byard made 3 interceptions versus the Cleveland Browns, and on November 5, 2017, he picked off 2 passes versus the Baltimore Ravens, thus becoming only the fifth player to record 5 interceptions during a two-game span since the 1970 merger; and

WHEREAS, his 8 picks placed him fourth in Oilers/Titans franchise history for interceptions during a single season, and Kevin Byard also participated in 87 tackles this season; and

WHEREAS, due to these remarkable feats and many more stupendous plays, Mr. Byard was twice named AFC Defensive Player of the Week in 2017; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding sophomore season with the Titans culminated in Kevin Byard's receipt of First Team All-Pro honors from the Associated Press, in addition to the team's first playoff appearance since the 2008 season; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Byard's success is no surprise to his former coaches and teammates at MTSU, where his intensive game preparation was legendary; he is the career leader in interceptions in MTSU football history with 19; and

WHEREAS, a young man who is loyal to his roots and his alma mater, Kevin Byard is proud to represent MTSU on the national stage and often wears Blue Raider apparel when he is appearing before the media; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Byard has joined the ranks of All-Pro defensive backs in only his second NFL season and served notice that he will continue to excel as the ball hawk for the Titans defense during the playoffs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Tennessee Titans safety Kevin Byard on being named First Team All-Pro by the Associated Press, salute his NFL-best 8 interceptions and 10 takeaways on defense, and wish him much continued success on the gridiron.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.